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Japan

Agricultural Situation

This Week in Japan

2001

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Report Highlights:

Japan Requests EU Support in WTO Talks; Japanese Imports of Fresh Chinese Broccoli Surge in 2000; MAFF Considers Shifting To Income Subsidy Program; Norway to Export Whale Products to Japan

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
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This Week in Japan

An Update of Major News and Events from the Largest U.S. Agricultural Export Market

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- i Japan Requests EU Support in WTO Talks:** MAFF Minister Yatsu met with EU counterparts in Brussels last week to discuss positions on WTO agriculture negotiations. According to media reports, Mr. Yatsu asked the EU's support on Japan's proposal to slow the pace of rice imports stipulated under the Uruguay Round in order to protect Japan's rice farmers. Both sides continue to agree on the multifunctional role of agriculture as a provider of public goods. (AgAffairs)
- i Japanese Imports of Fresh Chinese Broccoli Surge in 2000:** Japanese imports of fresh Chinese broccoli continue to grow, with shipments in 2000 estimated at 9,000 tons, up from 2,300 tons in 1999. Most sales occurred in the late fall and winter months, when U.S. broccoli prices are comparatively high. Meanwhile, sales from the United States in 2000 fell to less than 70,000 tons, down from 87,603 tons in 1999. With Chinese broccoli production costs low and quality good, the U.S. will continue to face increased competition in the late fall and winter months, the peak period for Chinese production (see JA1005). (AgAffairs Tokyo)
- i MAFF Considers Shifting To Income Subsidy Program:** According to major Japanese newspapers, MAFF plans to divert the current price support program to a direct income subsidy program for about 400,000 selected farmers including agricultural corporations. MAFF intends to prepare a proposal by this summer and to submit a bill in 2002. Implementation difficulties include selecting farmers, ensuring continued production from participating farmers, and keeping it from ending-up as pork barrel program, according to the report. (AgAffairs Tokyo)
- i Norway to Export Whale Products to Japan:** Last Wednesday, Tokyo Shimbun front-paged a Kyodo report from London that according to a Norwegian press report, the Norwegian government will lift a ban on the export of whale products. The Norwegian foreign and fisheries ministers were to hold a press conference to announce the country's lifting of the ban on the export of whale meat - primarily to Japan. Nikkei carried a similar inside-page report from London. (AgAffairs Tokyo)

Upcoming events: Jan 21-29: ASMI Seafood Fair; Feb5: APHIS Nursery Meeting; Feb 6: Future Farmers of America; Feb 9: USAPEEC; Feb: Ross Kreamer, Area Officer, FAS/USDA; Mar 2-13: Architecture & Construction Trade Show; Mar 4-7: Compliance Review of USAPEEC; Mar: GMO Seminar